

children. Jay, the oldest, lives in Austin, Texas with his wife, Leigh. Frank attends Christian Brothers High School, and John, the youngest, is a student at Woodland Presbyterian School.

Oral and Chris became permanent residents of Forrest City in 1962, when they moved here to establish a new location for their grocery store business at the intersection of Division Street and Highway 70. The business has since grown and Oral and his son, Steve, now own GES, Inc., which operates businesses in Arkansas named Food Giant, FG Express, Tobacco Warehouse and EDPROP Development Co.

In addition to being a business leader, Oral has also been an active community leader. Oral has served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of East Arkansas Community College and the Baptist College of Medical Sciences in Memphis, Tennessee. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Memorial Health Care Company, in Memphis.

Chris, not to be outdone by her husband, has also played an important role in a number of community organizations. She has been a member of the Garden Gate Garden Club and the Forrest City Musical Coterie for more than 40 years. She has also been an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

The state of Arkansas is a better place because of my close friends Oral and Chris Edwards, and I am proud to call them my friends. On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to these faithful public servants on the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN HIGH  
SCHOOL 2002 WISCONSIN "WE  
THE PEOPLE" CHAMPIONS

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, our great statesman Benjamin Franklin was asked, "What have you wrought?" He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Two hundred years later, the Center for Civic Education, created by Act of Congress and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, began working with our nation's elementary and secondary students to help them understand the enduring relevance of that statement. Since the inception of the "We the People" program in 1987, more than 26 million students and 82 thousand educators have participated in the Center's outstanding program to promote civic competence and participation.

Our founding fathers recognized that ultimately a free society must depend upon the civic virtue of its citizens, and that our schools have an important mission to prepare students to become informed, responsible citizens. Heritage Christian High School's social studies teacher Tim Moore certainly understands the important role of schools in promoting democratic values and an involved citizenry. In the seven years that Heritage Christian has participated in the "We the People" program, Mr.

Moore's students have won first place in the Wisconsin state competition five separate times!

The students from Heritage Christian have truly been inspired to academic excellence, and have demonstrated an impressive knowledge of the fundamental principles of our nation's constitutional democracy. It is with great pride that I recognize their outstanding achievement, and commend them for their exemplary commitment to the study of constitutional issues.

This year's representatives from Heritage Christian High School are: Sarah Bohl, Tim Bruce, Tim Cisler, Liz Culver, Jordan Hawkins, Joe Hense, Joanna Hinks, David Kludt, Amy Krejcarek, Brad Larson, Paul Lorenz, Tim Melville, Jon Pickens, Ashley Ramsland, Erik Skoglund, Meredith Spry, Courtney Van der Ploeg, and Andrew Wier.

Congratulations, and best wishes for continued success in this year's national competition in Washington, D.C.!

HONORING MAY AS OLDER  
AMERICANS MONTH

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, May 1st, marks the beginning of Older Americans Month. This should give us pause to focus on the status of our nation's seniors.

What is the major concern facing older Americans today? It is the need for affordable prescription drugs. As we all know very well, the Medicare program does not cover outpatient prescription drugs. Women, in particular, are affected by this shortfall in coverage. Women live, on average, seven years longer than men, have earned less during their working lives and have half the average annual income of older men. This makes women vulnerable to high health care costs, including out-of-pocket expenses and insurance deductibles as well as the price of prescription drugs.

Because of their longevity, women are more likely to have chronic health conditions and functional limitations. Eight of ten women on Medicare, including those with disabilities, use prescription drugs regularly to manage chronic conditions and subsequently are vulnerable to catastrophic expenses. These women fill fewer prescriptions annually than those with drug coverage but spend nearly twice as much out-of-pocket for their medications. The Congressional Budget Office reports that the average out-of-pocket costs for older Americans just for prescription drugs will be \$1500 this year alone.

This month, Connecticut seniors who are members of the Alliance for Retired Americans will board buses and travel to Canada in order to have their prescriptions filled at affordable prices. The Alliance, which will send its members from every state that borders Canada, expects to show that in just one month of short trips seniors can collectively save as much as one million dollars in annual prescription costs.

The trips are not a solution, but they will demonstrate just how ludicrous it is for U.S. citizens, especially older Americans, to have

to go to Canada to purchase lower cost medicines because of the lack of a prescription drug benefit within the Medicare program. We must bear in mind that for every person making the trip to Canada there are others who are far worse-off physically and who need the lower-priced medications even more. Unfortunately, they cannot physically board a bus.

Congress must act this year to break the hold that the pharmaceutical industry has on the drug pricing system that forces our citizens to travel to Canada to purchase their prescription drugs at affordable prices. Congress must relieve the emotional and financial distress that millions of older Americans are experiencing. Mr. Speaker, the best way to honor older Americans is for Congress to enact a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit this year.

TRIBUTE TO SALESIAN HIGH  
SCHOOL OF RICHMOND, CALI-  
FORNIA

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and families of Salesian High School of Richmond, California, who will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary on September 6, 2002.

On September 8, 1927, the Salesians of Saint John Bosco, a religious society of the Catholic Church specializing in youth services and education, established a high school seminary program for boys. Then, in 1960, the seminary relocated to Watsonville, California, and became a college preparatory Catholic high school.

In 1989, the school became coeducational and now, with 570 students, they reflect the ethnically diverse population of the area: 18% African-American, 7% Asian Pacific, 20% Euro-American, 23% Latino, 20% Filipino, and 12% from other ethnic and racial backgrounds.

65% of these students come from low-income families in the local neighborhood. Salesian High School has the lowest annual tuition among all the private schools in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, and it is their policy that no student will be left behind due to an inability to meet tuition costs. Therefore, they maintain a strong tuition assistance and scholarship program.

Salesian High School graduates 98% of their seniors into colleges and universities throughout California and the United States. This attests to their combination of church, school, playground, home, and family in their educational system.

The school is dedicated to developing well-rounded students through curriculum that encourages the students to develop their unique talents through education, Christian formation and service.

I rise to congratulate Salesian High School for 75 successful years of educational service and wish them continued success in the years to come.